AGO
ST. LOUIS
chartered 1911

THE OPUS

NOVEMBER 2026

VOLUME 43, ISSUE NO. 3

A Message from the Dean



How often do you observe, "Wow, that is so complicated"? I have been schooled in complicated procedures lately when I tried to sign up for a Medicare supplemental insurance policy. Agents selling coverage were so reassuring that I did not worry about the details that were not known to me. Well, many calls and emails later, I do have coverage and am appealing some of the unexpected charges. Through the complicated process, the extra guidance I received helped things get done.

Those who love playing pipe organ can lay claim to the fact that they play one of the most complicated musical instruments. Coordinating hands and feet, fingers, toes and heels is just the beginning. Registrations, manuals, fingerings, transitions all require attention. Organists work to develop four-limb independence that sounds "simple." When organ music is played well, listeners get drawn into the moment and have an opportunity to set aside the complex and involved realities of modern life so their spirits can be renewed. Fine organ music can inspire and uplift. Giving thought to this peak experience motivates me to practice carefully and work with what is complex until the music takes on ease and familiarity.

Another spectacular instrument is joining the ranks of St. Louis pipe organs. Monday, November 9 is the night we can get to know this excellent Schoenstein and Co. instrument at the Church of St. George and St. Michael in Clayton. What a great opportunity to be present as the process of building and finishing is unfolding.

November offers a time to set aside some of the complexities of contemporary life and explore gratitude. May you have time to share with people you treasure and to give thanks.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Soli Deo Gloria

Dawn Riske
Chapter Dean

Sub-Dean's Message



Dear Chapter Members,

Our next meeting is Monday, November 9, when we will gather at the Church of St. Michael and St. George (6345 Wydown Blvd., Clayton, MO) to visit with Schoenstein & Co., who are nearing the completion of the church's new 40-rank pipe organ. Dinner will be in the Great Hall at 6:30 p.m. Afterward, at 7:30 p.m., we will hear a presentation about the instrument from **Bryan Dunnewald, President and Tonal Director of Schoenstein**. Joseph Arndt will be our host.

Please contact Cathy Bolduan at (314) 853-5011 or kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com by Thursday, November 5, to make a reservation for dinner.

After this, our next meeting will be in the new year, on Friday, January 8, 2027. Our annual **Epiphany Party** will be held at St. Francis de Sales Oratory (2653 Ohio Ave., St. Louis, MO), where James Marck will be our host.

David Sinden,
Sub-Dean

Monday, November 9
6:30 p.m. – Dinner
7:30 p.m. – Program
Church of St. Michael and St. George
6345 Wydown Boulevard

Please RSVP by November 5 to Cathy Bolduan at Kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com or 314-853-5011 to make your dinner reservation. Cost is $20.00 per person. You may also purchase your dinner in advance with the QR code above. This code is valid only for the November 9 dinner. The dinner cost is still $20.00 but the link will ask if you want to add a donation to cover credit card costs. You can easily choose "Other" at the donation request field and enter zero ($0.00) and you will only be charged $20.00. The Chapter does not pay credit card fees regardless of what you choose. But you still must RSVP with Cathy Bolduan so she knows to order your meal. If you have to cancel or cannot attend, we apologize that there are no refunds for advance purchases.

Report to the Chapter

The Future Looks Bright

Mike Kaberline, Treasurer

After all the bills were paid and one-half of the surplus income was transferred to the National AGO Headquarters (by contract), the 2026 Saint Louis AGO National Convention realized over $86,000.00. We had always hoped and budgeted for a surplus, but I think everyone was surprised by the final amount. This demonstrates that there was great Convention leadership and exceptionally detailed planning to keep our costs well within budget.

Because of that financial gain I have proposed---and the Chapter Executive Committee voted to approve---several plans to restrict and designate funds related to specific areas which will benefit the Chapter and its members in the near future and help provide more annual revenue for the regular Chapter budget for normal operating expenses.

The first designated fund sets aside $10,000 for scholarships and certifications just for Chapter members. This would cover education and AGO certifications. There is an annual spending limit of $2,000 and, if spent at the maximum each year, this fund would last for 5 years. If the maximum is not spent, then the designated fund will continue for 8 years.

The second designated fund provides $24,000 for programs sponsored by the Chapter. These funds can be used for artists and performers, their transportation and other fees related to recitals, workshops, classes, etc. This will allow the Chapter to possibly contract with a concert recitalist each year as part of our program budget. There is an annual spending limit of $3,000 and, if spent at the maximum each year, this fund would last for 8 years.

The third fund designates $10,500 for the Chapter to “Pay It Forward”. By this I mean the Saint Louis Chapter can be a national leader by assisting other Chapters and/or the National Headquarters for future regional conventions, national conventions, POE’s, or other sponsored events. There were twenty AGO Chapters from around the country who generously donated over $23,550 to the Saint Louis 2026 Convention and twenty additional AGO Chapters who donated by purchasing advertisements in the Program Book. These were extremely beneficial to our success. We thank all the Chapters who contributed by direct funding, sponsoring artists or by purchasing advertisements. This new designated fund also covers the contribution amount that the Saint Louis Chapter gives to the Annual Fund of the National AGO. There is an annual spending limit of $1,500 and, if spent at the maximum each year, this fund would last for 7 years.

Any designated funds unspent at the end of eight years (June 30, 2035) would become unrestricted and reassigned to the Chapter’s general operating fund. Many of these directed expenditures are costs we already budget for and cover each year. By specifically designating funding from the 2026 Convention proceeds, we can cover some expenses we would already have each year and use the excess for more programs, education, etc.

(continued on page 5)



Proud sponsor of the American Guild of Organists

Mid-States Sheet Music is the area provider of digital and print music to schools, churches, educators, musicians and hobbyists.

Stop by to view over 4000 sq. ft. of Band, Orchestra, Choir, Instrumental, Vocal, Piano and Organ music.

MID-STATES SHEET MUSIC

2618 Metro Boulevard, Maryland Heights, 63043
(314) 774-3206 • ms-sheetmusic.com

Store hours: Mon/Tues by appointment • Wed thru Fri 10-5 • Sat 10-3

Proud sponsor of the American Guild of Organists

FEBRUARY FLOURISH

Saturday, February 6, 2027
(Snow Date: February 13)
8.30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Christ Church Cathedral
1210 Locust, 63103
Dr. Connor Scott, host

$35 fee includes lunch and snacks
Student fee is $15

Connection. Education. Inspiration.

Our Regional Ambassador, Catherine Rodland, will be present.

Free 6-month AGO membership to new members.

What a great time to invite another organist to consider the Guild.



(continued from page 3)

Another proposal which I presented, and was adopted by the Chapter, is to set up the "Saint Louis Scholarship" for Young Organists attending the next four National Conventions. For the past several conventions, the Houston Texas AGO Chapter used some of its Convention proceeds to provide $10,000 scholarships for approximately 10 Young Organists to attend the National Convention. This paid for their registration, local transportation and shared hotel accommodations. The Houston funds are in their last year and that important assistance is in danger of disappearing. By establishing the Saint Louis Scholarship with our Convention proceeds, we can continue to provide $10,000 in scholarships to numerous Young Organists wishing to attend future National Conventions. We are setting aside $40,000 to cover the next four National Conventions. The National AGO Headquarters is extremely pleased that Saint Louis would give so generously to help cultivate interest and experiences for Young Organists.

The Saint Louis Chapter will set up the processes and requirements for all these designated funds, so everyone has published guidelines as to what spending qualifies for the designated funds and how to apply for funding.

I think we can be immensely proud of our Chapter's accomplishments and positioning to secure our future in addition to being a recognized leader in the country.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

A quick explanation for the sudden change in the design and layout of The OPUS. For many years the newsletter was created using Microsoft Publisher. Microsoft no longer supports that product so, at least for now, the newsletter is being created using Microsoft Word. In the process it was easier to change some of the layout.

REGISTRAR REPORT

Our Chapter currently has 119 members. We welcome new colleagues Rev. Allen D. Webner and Helen Rothfuss. The deadline for being included in the AGO St Louis Chapter Yearbook (Directory) was October 1. If your membership expired prior to that date and you did not renew, unfortunately you will not be listed in the upcoming printing of the Yearbook. But we don't want to lose you as a member of our Chapter, so I would encourage you to renew your membership if it has expired to ensure you will be listed in next year's Yearbook. If you have any questions, please contact me at nbtrippfam@gmail.com or 314-488-4786.

Brenda Tripp
Registrar

The Steinway Piano Gallery is your local representative for sales, service, and leasing of the world's finest instruments. We stock over 100 new and used pianos and organs. Our inventory includes new and used Steinway grand pianos, Allen church organs, Steinway designed vertical pianos and Roland grand and upright pianos. Our staff is available to assist you with your selection and our service department is experienced with all of the products that we offer.





STEINWAY & SONS

Allen organs

Roland



Boston PIANO
DESIGNED BY STEINWAY & SONS®

See our large selection of used console organs in stock at budget prices

To schedule a consultation with a specialist call Susan Lutz
(314) 348-1133



STEINWAY PIANO GALLERY

12033 Dorsett Rd., Maryland Heights, MO 63043
steinwaypianogallery.com • allenorgandc.com • rolandpianostl.com
314 344-1133

Proud sponsor of the American Guild of Organists

CONCERTS & EVENTS

ST. LOUIS AGO CHAPTER

SOLEMN CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY
Sunday, November 1 - 5:00 p.m.
The Church of St. Michael & St. George
6345 Wydown Blvd.
St. Louis, MO
All are invited. Wine and Cheese Reception to follow.

CHORAL EVENSONG
Sunday, November 8 - 5:00 p.m.
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
110 N Warson Rd.
St. Louis, MO
This service is free, and everyone is welcome. A reception follows.

SOLEMN CHORAL EVENSONG
Sunday, November 15 - 5:00 p.m.
The Church of St. Michael & St. George
6345 Wydown Blvd.
St. Louis, MO
All are invited. Wine and Cheese Reception to follow.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS
Sunday, December 6 - 5:00 p.m.
The Church of St. Michael & St. George
6345 Wydown Blvd.
St. Louis, Mo
All are invited. Wine and Cheese Reception to follow.

NUTCRACKER ON ICE!
Saturday, December 12 & 13 – 2:00 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.
Webster Groves Ice Arena
33 E. Glendale Rd.
Webster Groves, MO, 63119.
Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door provided that the show isn't sold out, which often happens with the afternoon shows. You may want to check out the website and order your tickets in advance. nutcrackeronice.org. Get there early to get a good parking space because the lot fills up! (Street parking is allowed in some of the neighorhoods near the arena.)

(Concerts and Events Continued)

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Sunday, December 13 - 4:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
100 E. Adams St.
Kirkwood, MO

BILL STEIN, ORGANIST
Wednesday, December 16 -12:15 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
100 E. Adams St.
Kirkwood, MO

ORGAN RECITAL AND A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSON AND CAROLS
Sunday, December 20 – 4:30 p.m.
The Church of St. Michael & St. George
6345 Wydown Blvd.
St. Louis, MO
4:30 p.m. Organ Recital by Ken Cowan
Professor of Organ, Rice University
5:00 p.m. – A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
All are invited. Festival Reception to follow.

MARK SCHOLTZ, ORGANIST
January 13, 2027 - 12:15 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
100 E. Adams St.
Kirkwood, MO

DENNIS BERGIN, ORGANIST
Friday, February 26, 2027 - 7:00 p.m.
Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church
1230 Big Bend Road
St. Louis, MO

The concert is free and open to the public.
For further information, contact the church at (636) 861-1870.

Check the Concerts and Events section of the Chapter website (www.agostlouis.org) for the most current list of upcoming events. When visiting that page, be sure to click on the heading of each concert listing for full details, including contact information, driving directions, etc.

WICKS ORGAN LLC



PIPE & DIGITAL ADDITIONS

RENOVATIONS

SERVICE

NEW ORGANS

618-654-2191 WICKSORGAN.COM

Proud sponsor of the American Guild of Organists

Open POSITIONS

(Please note that some positions may no longer be available past the time of going to press.)

For more details on these and other job opportunities, be sure to visit the "Open Positions" section of our website at https://www.agostlouis.org/job-openings/. To post an opening for an organist, choir director or other liturgical music position or to remove a posting, email placement@agostlouis.org.

ORGANIST

Organist needed at Ste. Genevieve Catholic Church, 49 Dubourg Place, Sainte Genevieve, MO 63670. Position begins in January 2027, and is for one mass on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Interested candidates should contact Rose Hughey at rosiesposies@att.net or 573 225 4539.

ORGANIST

Holy Trinity Reformed Episcopal Church (1016 S. Elm, Webster Groves, MO) is seeking an organist. In addition to regular services, the organist will have the right of first refusal for weddings and funerals. For more information, please contact Sr. Warden Ted Watkins at crsprat@charter.net or 636-221-1512.

ORGANIST

Third Baptist Church invites applications from trained organists to join its music ministry team. The full-time position also includes serving as media director. Full position description may be found on the church's website. If interested, please send a cover letter, resume, references to Senior Pastor, Dr. Tommy Simons at simons@thirdbaptist.org.

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Parkway United Church of Christ seeks a part-time choir director. If you feel that we could be a good fit for you and your gifts, please send a cover letter and resume to employment@parkwayucc.org. Please indicate that you are applying for the choir director position.

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Resurrection Lutheran Church (1211 W. Homer M Adams Pkwy, Godfrey IL) is seeking an organist or pianist. Duties include playing hymns, Lutheran liturgies, and service music such as preludes, voluntaries and postludes. Sunday services are at 10:00 a.m. Additional services include mid-week services during Lent and Advent, Christmas Eve and other special services. For more information or to apply please contact Neal at 618-433-1611 or Pastor Jan at 618-250- 1608.

BOARD OFFICERS

2026-2027 Chapter Leadership Team

OFFICERS

Dean - Dawn Riske
Sub-Dean - David Sinden
Secretary - Gaye Anderson
Treasurer - Mike Kaberline Past Dean - Suzanne Manelli

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Class of 2027
Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart
Earl Naylor
Spencer Smith

Class of 2028
Joseph Arndt
Luella Foster
Matthew Gerhardt

Class of 2029
Kendra Ruesler
Connor Scott
Betsy Stull

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Auditor
Denis J. Doelling
Certification Coordinator
Brent Johnson
Dinner Reservations
Cathy Bolduan
Directory Editor
Brenda Tripp
Educational Resources
Dr. Barbara Raedeke
Membership Coordinator
Cathy Cassy
OPUS Editor
Rick Burk
Photographer
Vacant
Placement
Denis J. Doelling
Professional Concerns Liaison
Shawn Portell
Programs
David Sinden
Publicity Liaison
Dawn Riske
Registrar
Brenda Tripp
Social Media Communications
Suzanne Chisum
Webmaster
Brent Johnson

Check out our presence on Facebook

Consider following our "Saint Louis Chapter AGO American Guild of Organists" Facebook Page. View photos from the AGO Events and Meetings. Stay abreast of all the organ happenings in the St. Louis area.

Have you joined the STL AGO Member Group yet?

Our "AGO St. Louis Members" Group is a private group where you can find humor, post questions and ask questions of others in the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Check it out using the QR code to the right.

For more information on either, please contact Suzanne Chisum at mailto:mailto:suzchisum@gmail.com.

THE OPUS
American Guild of Organists
St. Louis Chapter
5 Villawood Lane
St. Louis, MO 63119

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Please Deliver Promptly



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO
Permit No. 2977

THE OPUS
The Official Publication
of the St. Louis Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists
5 Villawood Lane
St. Louis, MO 63119

November 2026 - Vol .43, No. 3

You are invited to submit material for publication consideration.
Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to mailto:newsletter@agostlouis.org.

Copy deadline for the December issue is November 10.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:
Brenda Tripp
5 Villawood Lane
St. Louis MO 63119